

**Jim Doyle**  
Governor

**Roberta Gassman**  
Secretary



**State of Wisconsin**

**Department of Workforce Development**

**OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY**

201 East Washington Avenue  
P.O. Box 7946  
Madison, WI 53707-7946  
Telephone: (608) 266-7552  
Fax: (608) 266-1784  
<http://www.dwd.state.wi.us/>  
e-mail: [dwdsec@dwd.state.wi.us](mailto:dwdsec@dwd.state.wi.us)

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Tuesday, September 19, 2006

Contact: Rose Lynch, DWD Director of Communications, 608-266-6753

## **Southeastern Wisconsin's Regional Workforce Alliance Receives \$110,000 "GROW" Grant**

*Money Will Support Area Workforce Development and Economic Growth*

**Milwaukee** – Today, Department of Workforce Development Secretary Roberta Gassman announced the Regional Workforce Alliance will receive a \$110,000 Growing Regional Opportunities in Wisconsin (GROW) grant towards workforce development and economic growth.

"I applaud the leadership of Mayor Barrett, the Workforce Development Boards and the Council for working together to bridge geographic boundaries and develop strong partnerships with regional leaders in economic development, education, business and labor," said Secretary Gassman.

The Regional Workforce Alliance is led by an Executive Leadership Team from the Waukesha-Ozaukee-Washington Workforce Development Board, the City of Milwaukee, the Milwaukee Private Industry Council and the Southeast Workforce Development Board. The regional collaboration brings together public and private sector leaders from seven counties including Kenosha, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine, Walworth, Washington and Waukesha to encourage investment to drive the economic development of Southeastern Wisconsin.

GROW funding will support efforts to complete a region-wide "state of the workforce" report, develop a regional workforce development strategic plan, and establish a regional business services team to better coordinate employment training services with area businesses. The grant will also underwrite a comprehensive analysis of public-sector, private-sector and philanthropic funding sources for workforce development, culminating in a regional "donors' forum" next year. In addition, a portion of the GROW grant will support continuing efforts to develop a region-wide strategy to increase career opportunities in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics fields and build connections to the regional 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Initiative in K-12 education.

"The Regional Workforce Alliance will greatly complement the work of the Milwaukee 7," said Secretary Gassman. "As we develop our workforce and increase career opportunities, we also strengthen our local economy and excite current and prospective employers."

The Regional Workforce Alliance was established within the past year to focus on workforce development for the three regional boards and the seven southeastern counties. The Alliance builds upon the work performed by the Milwaukee 7 (formerly the Greater Milwaukee Economic Development Partnership) by developing regional strategies to ensure the area has a highly-skilled workforce, increasing employment opportunities and providing services for area employers.

The GROW grants were established as part of Governor Doyle's "Grow Wisconsin" initiative. The funds are available through the state Council on Workforce Investment and are administered by DWD. In 2005, a total of \$465,000 was granted to seven regions to cover the state. An additional \$500,000 is available in 2006 to build upon the successes of the local collaborations to continue to promote regional workforce and economic approaches throughout Wisconsin.

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